This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 wherein the component is a hardware component.

3. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 including the step of (c)(iii) when a missing shared resource is not found in the search strategy, providing a notification to the user of the type and version of the missing shared resources not found.

4. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 wherein the shared resources are selected from a group consisting of: hardware shared resources including hardware and files, and software shared resources including files only.

5. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 wherein the predefined search strategy begins the search with a directory of a source of the component.

6. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 wherein the predefined search strategy includes searching at least one predetermined Internet location.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A method of adding a component into a multi-component electronic device, the multi-component electronic device providing a set of shared resources having types and version numbers, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining a required shared resource list of types and version numbers of shared resources required by the component and other components of the multi-component electronic device;

(b) attaching to the component a link to the required shared resource list;

(c) executing a loader program upon installation of the component to compare the required shared resource list with the set of shared resources provided by the multi-component electronic device;

(i) when the entire required shared resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of shared resources provided by the multi-component electronic device, adding the component to the multi-component electronic device; and

(ii) when less than the entire required shared resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of shared resources provided by the multi-component electronic device, determining the types and version numbers of the missing shared resources and searching for the missing shared resources according to a predefined search strategy; and installing the missing shared resources on the multi-component electronic device;

further including the step of:

(iii) when a missing shared resource found in the search strategy is a shared resource having a type but not a version identical with a corresponding shared resource in the set of shared resources, adding the missing shared resource to the multi-component electronic device without removing the original corresponding shared resource, thus treating the resource as two distinct files even if they have the same name, ~~The method of claim 7~~

wherein the corresponding shared resource is in a common directory to be usable components other than the component and the new shared resource is placed in a directory different from the directory of the corresponding shared resource and usable by the component. ~~unique to the shared resource~~

9. (currently amended) A method of adding a component into a multi-component electronic device, the multi-component electronic device providing a set of shared resources having types and version numbers, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining a required shared resource list of types and version numbers of shared resources required by the component and other components of the multi-component electronic device;

(b) attaching to the component a link to the required shared resource list;

(c) executing a loader program upon installation of the component to compare the required shared resource list with the set of shared resources provided by the multi-component electronic device;

(i) when the entire required shared resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of shared resources provided by the multi-component electronic device, adding the component to the multi-component electronic device; and

(ii) when less than the entire required shared resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of shared resources provided by the multi-component electronic device, determining the types and version numbers of the missing shared resources and searching for the missing shared resources according to a predefined search strategy; and installing the missing shared resources on the multi-component electronic device;~~The method of claim 1 including further the steps of:~~

(d) determining upward compatibility between different version numbers of shared resources of a given type, upward compatibility indicating that a shared resource of a later version number fully supports the features of a shared resource with an earlier version number;

(e) linking the information about the compatibility to the shared resources;

(f) when a missing shared resource found in the search strategy is a shared resource having a type identical with a corresponding shared resource in the set of shared resources but a later version number, replacing the corresponding shared

resource with the missing shared resource only when the missing shared resource is upwardly compatible with the corresponding shared resource.

10. (currently amended) A method of adding a component into a multi-component electronic device, the multi-component electronic device providing a set of shared resources having types and version numbers, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining a required shared resource list of types and version numbers of shared resources required by the component and other components of the multi-component electronic device;

(b) attaching to the component a link to the required shared resource list;

(c) executing a loader program upon installation of the component to compare the required shared resource list with the set of shared resources provided by the multi-component electronic device;

(i) when the entire required shared resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of shared resources provided by the multi-component electronic device, adding the component to the multi-component electronic device; and

(ii) when less than the entire required shared resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of shared resources provided by the multi-component electronic device, determining the types and version numbers of the missing shared resources and searching for the missing shared resources according to a predefined search strategy; and installing the missing shared resources on the multi-component electronic device;~~The method of claim 1 including further the steps of:~~

(d) determining upward compatibility between different version numbers of shared resources of a given type, upward compatibility indicating that a shared resource with a later version number fully supports the features of a shared resource of an earlier version number;

(e) linking the information about the compatibility to the shared resources;

(f) when a missing shared resource found in the search strategy is a shared resource having a type identical with a corresponding shared resource in the set of

shared resources but an earlier version number, using the corresponding shared resource instead of the missing shared resource only when the corresponding shared resource is upwardly compatible with the missing shared resource.

11. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 wherein the set of shared resources is determined by a program searching the multi-component electronic device prior to step (c).

12. (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 12~~ claim 17 wherein the available shared resource table is generated at least in part by manual entry of the shared resource.

14. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 12~~ claim 17 wherein the available shared resource table is generated by the step of a program searching the multi-component electronic device.

15. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 12~~ claim 17 wherein the available shared resource table is generated as components are loaded.

16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) A method of adding a component into a multi-component electronic device, the multi-component electronic device providing a set of shared resources having types and version numbers, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining a required shared resource list of types and version numbers of shared resources required by the component and other components of the multi-component electronic device;

(b) attaching to the component a link to the required shared resource list;

(c) executing a loader program upon installation of the component to compare the required shared resource list with the set of shared resources provided by the multi-component electronic device;

(i) when the entire required shared resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of shared resources provided by the multi-component electronic device, adding the component to the multi-component electronic device; and

(ii) when less than the entire required shared resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of shared resources provided by the multi-component electronic device, determining the types and version numbers of the missing shared resources and searching for the missing shared resources according to a predefined search strategy; and installing the missing shared resources on the multi-component electronic device;

wherein the set of shared resources is listed in an available shared resource table in the multi-component electronic device and wherein step (c) compares the required shared resource list with the available shared resource table;

wherein the available shared resource table includes a listing of components using each shared resource; further including the step of:

~~The method of claim 16 including the step of:~~

(d) adding a shared resource to the available shared resource table, in the listing of components using each shared resource, for the shared resources of the required shared resource list.

18. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 16~~ claim 17 further including the steps of:

(e) accepting a component deletion instruction;

(f) deleting the component from the multi-component electronic device;

(g) reviewing the available shared resource table to find all the shared resources associated with the component; and

(h) deleting all shared resources identified in the step (f) unless the available shared resource table indicates a component other than the component being deleted in the listing of components using the shared resource.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 18 including the step of:

(i) deleting the shared resource from all listing of components associated with shared resources of the available shared resource table.

20. (previously presented): The method of claim 19 further including the step of (j) notifying the user of shared resources identified in the step (f) wherein the available shared resource table indicates a component other than the component being deleted in the listing of components using the shared resource.

21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) The multi-component electronic system of ~~claim 21~~ claim 29 wherein the component is a hardware component.

23. (currently amended) The multi-component electronic system of ~~claim 21~~ claim 29 wherein the loader program further provides a notification to the user of the type and version of the missing shared resources not found.

24. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 21~~ claim 29 wherein the shared resources are selected from a group consisting of: hardware shared resources including hardware and files, and software shared resources including files only.

25. (currently amended) The multi-component electronic system of ~~claim 21~~ claim 29 wherein the predefined search strategy begins the search with a directory of a source of the component.

26. (currently amended) The multi-component electronic system of ~~claim 21~~ claim 29 wherein the predefined search strategy includes searching at least one predetermined Internet location.

27. (cancelled)

28. (currently amended) A multi-component electronic system comprising:

a multi-component device providing a set of shared resources having types and version numbers;

a component suitable for the multi-component device and having a link to a required shared resource list holding types and version numbers of shared resources required by the component;

a loader program executing to:

(i) compare the required shared resource list of a component with the set of shared resources;

(ii) when the entire required shared resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of shared resources, allowing addition of the component to the multi-component electronic device; and

(iii) when less than the entire required shared resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of shared resources, determining the types and version numbers of the missing shared resources and searching for the missing shared resources according to a predefined search strategy and installing the missing shared resources on the multi-component electronic device;

wherein when a missing shared resource found in the search strategy is a shared resource having a type, but not a version identical with a corresponding shared resource in the set of shared resources, the loader program adds the missing shared resource to the multi-component electronic device without removing the corresponding original shared resource; ~~The multi-~~component ~~electronic system of claim 27~~

wherein the corresponding shared resource is in a common directory to be usable components other than the component and the new shared resource is placed in a directory different from the directory of the corresponding shared resource and usable by the component. ~~unique to the shared resource~~

29. (currently amended) A multi-component electronic system comprising:

a multi-component device providing a set of shared resources having types and version numbers;

a component suitable for the multi-component device and having a link to a required shared resource list holding types and version numbers of shared resources required by the component;

a loader program executing to:

(i) compare the required shared resource list of a component with the set of shared resources;

(ii) when the entire required shared resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of shared resources, allowing addition of the component to the multi-component electronic device; and

(iii) when less than the entire required shared resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of shared resources, determining the types and version numbers of the missing shared resources and searching for the missing shared resources according to a predefined search strategy and installing the missing shared resources on the multi-component electronic device;

~~The multi-component electronic system of claim 21~~ wherein the shared resources link to information about upward compatibility between different version numbers of shared resources of a given type, upward compatibility indicating that a shared resource of a later version number fully supports the features of a shared resource with an earlier version number;

and wherein when a missing shared resource found by the loader program in the search strategy is a shared resource having a type identical with a corresponding shared resource in the set of shared resources but a later version number, the loader program replaces the corresponding shared resource with the missing shared resource only when the missing shared resource is upwardly compatible with the corresponding shared resource.

30. (currently amended) A multi-component electronic system comprising:

a multi-component device providing a set of shared resources having types and version numbers;

a component suitable for the multi-component device and having a link to a required shared resource list holding types and version numbers of shared resources required by the component;

a loader program executing to:

(i) compare the required shared resource list of a component with the set of shared resources;

(ii) when the entire required shared resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of shared resources, allowing addition of the component to the multi-component electronic device; and

(iii) when less than the entire required shared resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of shared resources, determining the types and version numbers of the missing shared resources and searching for the missing shared resources according to a predefined search strategy and installing the missing shared resources on the multi-component electronic device;

~~The multi-component electronic system of claim 21~~ wherein the shared resources link to information about upward compatibility between different version numbers of shared resources of a given type, upward compatibility indicating that a shared resource with a later version number fully supports the features of a shared resource of an earlier version number;

and wherein when a missing shared resource found by the loader program in the search strategy is a shared resource having a type identical with a corresponding shared resource in the set of shared resources but an earlier version number, the loader program uses the corresponding shared resource instead of the missing shared resource only when the corresponding shared resource is upwardly compatible with the missing shared resource.

31. (currently amended) The multi-component electronic system of ~~claim 21~~ claim 29 wherein the loader program searches the multi-component electronic device to determine the set of shared resources.

32. (cancelled)

33. (currently amended) The multi-component electronic system of ~~claim 32~~ claim 36 wherein the available shared resource table is generated at least in part by manual entry of the shared resource.

34. (currently amended) The multi-component electronic system of ~~claim 32~~ claim 36 wherein the loader program updates the available shared resource table as components are loaded.

35. (cancelled)

36. (currently amended) A multi-component electronic system comprising:

a multi-component device providing a set of shared resources having types and version numbers:

a component suitable for the multi-component device and having a link to a required shared resource list holding types and version numbers of shared resources required by the component;

a loader program executing to:

(i) compare the required shared resource list of a component with the set of shared resources;

(ii) when the entire required shared resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of shared resources, allowing addition of the component to the multi-component electronic device; and

(iii) when less than the entire required shared resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of shared resources, determining the types and version numbers of the missing shared resources and searching for the missing shared resources according to a predefined search strategy and installing the missing shared resources on the multi-component electronic device;

wherein the set of shared resources is listed in an available shared resource table in the multi-component electronic device and wherein the loader program compares the required shared resource list with the available shared resource table;

wherein the available shared resource table includes a listing of components using each shared resource; and

~~The multi-component electronic system of claim 35~~ wherein the loader program adds a shared resource to the available shared resource table, in the listing of components using each shared resource, for the shared resources of the required shared resource list.

37. (currently amended) The multi-component electronic system of ~~claim 35~~ claim 36 wherein the loader program further:

(iv) accepts a component deletion instruction;

(v) deletes the component from the multi-component electronic device;

(vi) reviews the available shared resource table to find all the shared resources associated with the component; and

(vii) deletes all shared resources identified in the step (vi) unless the available shared resource table indicates a component other than the component being deleted in the listing of components using the shared resource.

38. (previously presented) The multi-component electronic system of claim 37 wherein the loader program further deletes the shared resource from all listing of components associated with shared resources of the available shared resource table.

39. (previously presented) The multi-component electronic system of claim 38 wherein the loader program further notifies the user of shared resources identified in the step (vi) wherein the available shared resource table indicates a component other than the component being deleted in the listing of components using the shared resource.